

REMARKS

Applicants hereby add new claims 152-167. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-29, 31-33, 39-65, 67, 130-131, and 133-167 are pending in this application.

New claim 152 corresponds to originally filed claim 1 which was rejected under a first 103 rejection for obviousness over Tanaka and a second 103 rejection for obviousness over Kurisawa. The rejection over Kurisawa is in error. Kurisawa does not qualify as prior art. In particular, Kurisawa was filed in the U.S. on August 25, 1999 claiming priority from a Japanese application filed August 28, 1998 and published March 7, 2000. The present application claims priority from serial no. 09/517,127, filed March 2, 2000, which was a continuation-in-part of serial no. 09/324,737, filed June 3, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,290,576 B1. Claim 152 is supported by Figs. 1-11 and associated specification teachings of the present application which comprise subject matter disclosed in the 09/517,127 and 09/324,737 applications. Applicants request withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claim 152 over Kurisawa.

Further, the rejection of claim 1 corresponding to new claim 152 over Tanaka is in error. The first Office Action fails to identify any Tanaka teachings which allegedly correspond to the claimed "connection." However, the Office Action does identify reference 19 of Tanaka as allegedly disclosing the claimed sensor coupled with the connection. As shown in Fig. 8 of Tanaka, sensor 19 is submersed within a tank 13. In no fair interpretation, may tank 13 be considered to disclose or suggest the claimed "connection." Tank 13 may only fairly be considered to disclose a supply or a reservoir of the compound and is not a connection as claimed. To be considered as a connection, the tank 13 must couple or link different entities. Applicants refer the Examiner to the

dictionary definition of "Webster's Third New International Dictionary," Vol.1, G. & C. Merriam Co., 1981, pp. 481, of "connection" (copy enclosed) wherein connection is defined as something that connects: a coupling, a link (e.g., plumbing). Connection is further defined as a means of communication or transport. Tank 13 provides no coupling, linking, communication or transport of compound 19 but is merely a storage supply or reservoir with absolutely no connection functionality. Positively-recited limitations of claim 152 are not shown nor suggested by Tanaka and claim 152 is allowable.

The claims which depend from independent claim 152 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Dependent claims 153-162 correspond to respective original claims 2-3, 7-11, and 15-17.

For example, claim 155 recites the *connection is adapted to **couple with a process fluid supply** and is configured to supply process fluid **from the process fluid supply to the process chamber***. The Office Action failed to identify any teachings of Tanaka which allegedly discloses the claimed process fluid supply. The only structure of Tanaka which may allegedly disclose the claimed connection is the tank 13 inasmuch as sensor 19 may only be considered coupled with tank 13. Tank 13 is not coupled with the process chamber and a process fluid supply as claimed. Limitations of claim 155 are not shown nor suggested by the prior art and claim 155 is allowable for this additional reason.

New claim 163 corresponds to original claim 34. Original claim 34 was only rejected under 103 over Kurisawa. Claim 163 is supported by Figs. 1-11 and associated specification teachings of the present application which comprise subject matter disclosed

in the 09/517,127 and 09/324,737 applications. Accordingly, Kurisawa is not prior art against claim 163 and Applicants request withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claim 163 over Kurisawa for at least this reason. New claim 163 is allowable inasmuch as original claim 34 was only rejected over Kurisawa and such rejection is improper.

The claims which depend from independent claim 163 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Dependent claims 164-165 correspond to respective original claims 37 and 38.

Claim 166 corresponds to original claim 58. Original claim 58 was rejected for obviousness over the Kurisawa patent. Claim 166 is supported by Figs. 1-11 and associated specification teachings of the present application which comprise subject matter disclosed in the 09/517,127 and 09/324,737 applications. Kurisawa is not prior art against claim 166. Applicants request withdrawal of the 103 rejection of claim 166 over Kurisawa.

Further, original claim 58 was rejected under 103 over Tanaka. The rejection was in error. For example, claim 166 recites a *connection configured to transport a semiconductor process fluid relative to a semiconductor process chamber and a sensor oriented relative to the connection*. The Office Action fails to identify any teachings of Tanaka which allegedly disclose the claimed connection. It is clear tank 13 does not transport fluid relative to a chamber as claimed. Positively recited limitations of claim 166 are not shown nor suggested by Tanaka and new claim 166 is allowable. Applicants request allowance of new claim 166 in the next Action.

The claims which depend from independent claim 166 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

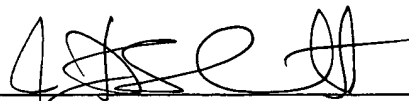
Dependent claim 167 corresponds to original claim 62.

Applicants request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,

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